REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 20 are in active prosecution in the application, as Claims 11-19 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 20 are independent.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 20 to define the invention with greater particularity as required by statute.

Applicants have made the Specification amendment at page 8, line 13 as suggested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Action.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 1-10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being not enabled for the reason given at page 2, of the Action.

While not agreeing with or conceding the propriety of the Section 112 rejection, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 20 thereby mooting the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are thus requested.

Section 103(a) Rejection

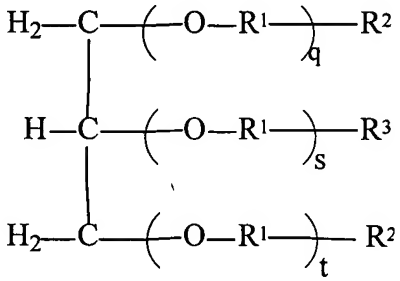
Claims 1 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brault et al U.S.

Patent No. 6,048,604, for the reasons set forth at pages 2-3, of the Action.

Applicants traverse the Section 103 rejection.

Initially, Applicants invite the Examiner to a brief summary of the present invention, as defined by Claim 1. That is, the invention is directed to a free-radical curable composition which is washable and self-emulsifiable upon mixing with water. The composition includes

(a) a curable glycerol composition having the formula:



where R^1 is a C_1 to C_5 alkylene; R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydroxyl, (meth)acrylate and combinations thereof; q, s and t are independently from about 0 to about 35; provided that at least one R^2 is (meth)acrylate; at least one q, s or t, is not zero and that at least one of R^1 is ethyl or propyl; and

(b) a free radical initiator to initiate cure of the composition.

In contrast, Brault is directed to an electrographic recording element suitable for forming a wallcovering. The electrographic recording element includes, in order: a backside conductive layer; a base; a filled layer; a frontside conductive layer; and a dielectric layer.

The frontside conductive layer includes, in polymerized form, 10 to 90 parts by weight of the one or more ethylenically unsaturated ammonium precursors and 10 to 90 parts by weight of the other polymerizable precursors, the parts by weight based on the total weight of the one or more ethylenically unsaturated ammonium precursors and the other polymerizable precursors presented in the frontside conductive layer. The one or more ethylenically unsaturated ammonium precursors and the other polymerizable precursors together includes at least 50 percent by weight of the total solids present in the frontside conductive layer. The surface resistivity of the frontside conductive layer is about $1x10^5$ Ω/□ to about $1x10^8$ Ω/□, and the surface resistivity of the backside conductive layer is about $1x10^5$ Ω/□ to about $1x10^8$ Ω/□. The filled layer includes one or more binders and pigments, the ratio of total binder to total pigment being about 2.1 to 3.1. The element has a wet shrinkage of less than about 2% in the

machine direction and less than about 2% in the cross-machine direction.

Applicants fail to see how Brault is analogous art to that which is defined by the present invention.

The Examiner has invited Applicants' attention to Brault at column 4, lines 54-67, column 5 at lines 12-13 and lines 27-37, and column 6, line 1. Applicants have studied Brault, including the referred to passages, and fail to see how these specific passages render obvious the present invention.

Initially, Applicants note that the passage at column 4 refers to radiation curable compositions, which are conductive. Applicants' invention as defined by Claim 1 requires neither radiation cure, nor conductivity. In addition, as noted above, Applicants' invention does not relate to electromagnetic recording elements.

Applicants have reviewed the passages that column 5 referred to in the Action, and note that Brault indicates that other polymerizable precursors which function as free radical crosslinking agents can be used in his system. (Column 5, lines 4-6.) Thus, the acrylate monomers referred to at passage 5 must be used in conjunction with the ethylenically unsaturated ammonium salts referred to at column 4. Applicants point out

that the Examiner refers to the ethylenically unsaturated ammonium salt as meeting the instant ionic surfactant. (Action, page 3, second paragraph.) However, Applicants note that the ionic surfactant is recited for the first time in the claims in Claim 9, not independent Claims 1 or 20.

A fair reading of Brault, which is directed to electrographic recording elements suitable for forming wallcoverings does not lead those persons of ordinary skill in the art to washable impregnation sealants. There is simply no motivation to leap from Brault's field of endeavor to that which Applicants' have invented.

Moreover, the Action has taken liberty to chose only so much of Brault (while ignoring significant features thereof) in an attempt to construct a Section 103 obviousness rejection. However, even with the liberties taken, the Action does not satisfy the elements necessary to establish a proper Section 103 rejection.

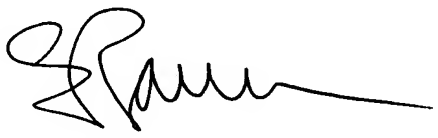
Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (860) 571-5001, by facsimile at (860) 571-5028, or by email at steve.bauman@loctite.com. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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